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For: METHOD OF CONTROLLING AN INTERNET BROWSER
INTERFACE AND A CONTROLLABLE BROWSER INTERFACE

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PROPOSED NEW CLAIMS FOR DISCUSSION AT INTERVIEW

87. (New) A method of controlling an Internet browser interface displayable by an Internet browser on a display of a computer, and enabling a user of the computer and Internet browser to access and navigate the Internet and to receive and display on the computer display one or more Web pages from one or more Internet sites, including the display of a Web page from a predetermined Internet site, the Internet browser having at least one Internet browser toolbar having at least one toolbar button providing a predetermined functionality to the user of the computer and Internet browser, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing, at the predetermined Internet site, access to a program for controlling the Internet browser interface; and
- (b) making available for downloading by the predetermined Internet site, a file for causing the display of a persistent user toolbar adjacent to said Internet browser toolbar so as to create the visual impression that the user toolbar is an integrated part of the Internet browser, the user toolbar making additional functionality that is not part of the Internet browser prior to download available to the user after download as part of the Internet browser interface, such that once the user toolbar is displayed the user toolbar remains displayed and said additional

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functionality remains available to the user regardless of a subsequent Internet site to which the Internet browser is caused to navigate after download.

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88. (New) A method as recited by claim 87, wherein the user toolbar includes an interface object and is customizable by the user to provide user-selected functionality in the user toolbar.

89. (New) A method as recited by claim 87, wherein the file comprises an ActiveX control.

90. (New) A method as recited by claim 87, wherein the file comprises a Plug-in.

91. (New) A method as recited by claim 88, wherein the interface object is a toolbar button.

92. (New) A method as recited by claim 88, wherein the interface object is a search window that enables the user to initiate a search at the predetermined Internet site regardless of the Internet site to which the computer is connected via the browser at the time the search is initiated.

93. (New) A method as recited by claim 87, wherein the predetermined Internet site maintains user-specific information for a plurality of users, including the user of the computer and Internet browser, said method further comprising the step of making available for downloading by the predetermined Internet site, after download of said file and automatically at a subsequent activation of the Internet browser, without the necessity for the user to navigate to the predetermined Internet site, information specific to the user of the computer and Internet

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browser for defining all or part of the user toolbar and wherein all or part of the display of the user toolbar is dependent upon the information, specific to the user of the computer and Internet browser, downloaded by the predetermined Internet site.

94. (New) A method as recited by claim 93, further comprising the step of making available for downloading by the predetermined Internet site, additional information, specific to the user of the computer and Internet browser, for defining all or part of the user toolbar, and wherein all or part of the display of the user toolbar is dependent upon the downloaded information.

95. (New) An Internet browser interface displayable by an Internet browser on a display of a computer, the Internet browser facilitating connection between the computer and one or more Internet sites, including a predetermined Internet site, the Internet browser having at least one Internet browser toolbar having predetermined functionality available to a user of the computer and Internet browser, the Internet browser further facilitating display on the computer display of one or more Web pages from the one or more Internet sites, and display of Web pages from the predetermined Internet site, said Internet browser interface, after being enabled via connection to said predetermined Internet site, including a persistent user toolbar adjacent to said Internet browser toolbar so as to create the visual impression that the user toolbar is an integrated part of the Internet browser, the user toolbar having additional functionality in addition to said predetermined functionality that is displayed as part of the Internet browser interface along with and in addition to the Internet browser toolbar while the Internet browser is activated, regardless of which one of said one or more Internet sites the computer is connected to via the Internet browser.

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96. (New) An Internet browser interface as recited by claim 95, wherein said user toolbar includes an interface object and is customizable by the user.

97. (New) An Internet browser interface as recited by claim 96, wherein said interface object is a toolbar button.

98. (New) An Internet browser interface as recited by claim 96, wherein said interface object is a persistent search window that is independent of any search capability provided as part of said Internet browser and that enables the user to initiate a search at the predetermined Internet site regardless of the Internet site to which the computer is connected via the Internet browser at the time the search is initiated.

99. (New) An Internet browser interface as recited by claim 96, wherein said interface object comprises an ActiveX control that enables user customization of said interface object.

100. (New) An Internet browser interface as recited by claim 96, wherein said interface object comprises a Plug-in control that enables user customization of said interface object.

101. (New) An Internet browser interface as recited by claim 96, wherein the predetermined Internet site maintains user-specific information for a plurality of users, including the user of the computer and Internet browser, and wherein, after download of said file and automatically at an activation of the Internet browser subsequent to said download, software that is related to operation of said user toolbar instructs said computer to establish a connection to the predetermined Internet site, without the necessity for the user to navigate to the predetermined

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Internet site, to receive information specific to the user of the computer from the predetermined Internet site, and wherein all or part of said user toolbar is dependent upon the information received from the predetermined Internet site and specific to the user of the computer, .

102. (New) An Internet browser interface as recited by claim 101, wherein said interface object causes the Internet browser to periodically re-establish a connection to the predetermined Internet site while the Internet browser is activated to receive additional information, specific to the user of the computer and Internet browser, from the predetermined Internet site, and wherein all or part of said user toolbar is dependent upon the additional information.

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103. (New) A system for controlling an Internet browser interface displayable by an Internet browser on a display of a computer said system comprising:

a server, said server including a program accessible over the Internet by a user of the computer for controlling the Internet browser interface; and

a file downloadable by said server to the computer for controlling the Internet browser interface in the form of an added user toolbar displayed as part of the browser interface adjacent to a toolbar provided as part of said Internet browser and offering user toolbar functionality in addition to that provided by the Internet browser prior to said file being downloaded that remains available to a user of the computer regardless of the Internet site to which the Internet browser is caused to navigate subsequent to said file being downloaded.

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104. (New) A system as recited by claim 103, wherein said downloadable file causes a user toolbar to be displayed on the display of the computer as part of the Internet browser interface.

105. (New) A system as recited by claim 104, wherein said downloadable file causes an interface object to be displayed as part of said user toolbar.

106. (New) A system as recited by claim 105, wherein said interface object enables a user of the computer to customize the user toolbar and comprises an ActiveX control.

107. (New) A system as recited by claim 105, wherein said interface object enables a user of the computer to customize the user toolbar and comprises a Plug-in.

108. (New) A system as recited by claim 105, wherein said interface object is a toolbar button.

109. (New) A system as recited by claim 105, wherein said interface object is a search window that enables a user of the computer and Internet browser to initiate a search at a predetermined Internet site regardless of the Internet site to which the computer is connected via the browser at the time the search is initiated.

110. (New) A system for controlling an Internet browser pre-programmed to link to a home page upon activation and having a browser interface displayable on a display of a computer, said system comprising:

a server for downloading files; and

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a file, downloadable by said server, said file controlling the Internet browser so that the Internet browser enables a user of the computer to perform functions via a toolbar that is part of said browser interface, said toolbar and said functions not being available to the user via the browser interface prior to said file being downloaded.

111. (New) A method as recited by claim 87, wherein the file is caused to open when the Internet browser is activated so as to establish a link between the computer and the predetermined Internet site, which link is not dependent upon the predetermined home page that the Internet browser is programmed to display upon activation, and wherein the file receives information from the predetermined Internet site for defining all or part of an interface object.

112. (New) A method as recited by claim 111, wherein the file periodically causes the Internet browser to establish a link between the computer and the predetermined Internet site and receive additional information from the predetermined Internet site for defining all or part of an interface object.